

The House Committee on Appropriations offers the following substitute to HR 161:

A RESOLUTION

1 Compensating Mr. John Jerome White; and for other purposes.

2 WHEREAS, in 1979, a man forcibly entered the home of a 74 year-old woman in
3 Meriwether County and robbed, beat, and raped her; and

4

5 WHEREAS, a young man named Mr. John Jerome White was convicted of the crimes,
6 largely on eyewitness testimony, and sentenced to life in prison; and

7 WHEREAS, he was paroled in 1990, but subsequent convictions caused him to be returned
8 to prison to serve out the life sentence; and

9 WHEREAS, DNA tests conducted at the urging of the Georgia Innocence Project led
10 authorities to identify the actual perpetrator of the crimes, a man with whom law enforcement
11 was familiar and who was in the lineup at the time the witness mistakenly identified Mr.
12 White as the perpetrator; and

13 WHEREAS, on December 10, 2007, Mr. White was released after his 1979 indictment was
14 nol-prossed; and

15 WHEREAS, Mr. White, now 48 years old, lost almost three decades of his life and is now
16 the longest serving of the nation's exonerees due to post-conviction DNA testing; and

17 WHEREAS, Mr. White has suffered loss of liberty, personal injury, lost wages, injury to
18 reputation, emotional distress, and other damages as a result of his 28 years of incarceration
19 and expenses in trying to prove his innocence totaling \$3 million; and

20 WHEREAS, the conviction, incarceration, and subsequent loss of liberty and other damages
21 occurred through no fault or negligence on the part of Mr. White, and it is only fitting and
22 proper that he be compensated for his loss.

H. R. (SUB)

23 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
24 GEORGIA that the Department of Administrative Services is authorized and directed to pay
25 the sum of \$709,090.00, to be paid out in a 20 year annuity to Mr. John Jerome White as
26 compensation as provided above. Said sum shall be paid from funds appropriated to or
27 available to the Department of Administrative Services and shall be in full and complete
28 satisfaction of all claims against the state arising out of said occurrence.

29 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that all payments and all obligations of the state for any and
30 all future payments for such annuity shall cease upon the date of death of the beneficiary, Mr.
31 John Jerome White, and no such annuity shall be assignable under any circumstances. All
32 payments shall cease upon any further felony conviction.